

CLAIMS

1. A method of interfacing a terminal with a radio frequency identification (RFID) base station, comprising:

5 transmitting a data string from said terminal using a standard terminal emulation protocol, wherein said data string is recognizable as including RFID information;

receiving said data string;

identifying said data string as including RFID information;

10 using said data string to produce an RFID signal that includes said RFID information; and

transmitting said RFID signal to said RFID base station using an RFID protocol.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a responsive RFID signal from said RFID base station using said RFID protocol, wherein said RFID signal includes transponder information that is responsive to said RFID information;

20 using said responsive RFID signal to produce a responsive data string that includes said transponder information;

transmitting said responsive data string to said terminal using said standard terminal emulation protocol.

25 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of transmitting a data string from said terminal further comprises inserting characters into said data string to make said data string recognizable as including RFID information;

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of identifying said data string as including RFID information further comprises identifying at least the location of a first character in said data string to determine whether said data string includes said RFID information.

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5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of using said data string to produce an RFID signal further comprises parsing said data string into identifiable character sets, interpreting said character sets into said RFID information, and compiling said RFID signal to include said RFID information;

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6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of using said RFID information to communicate with at least one RFID transponder.

15 7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of using said RFID information to communicate with at least one barcode scanner.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said RFID information is selected at least in part from a list of information consisting of a port-initialization command, barcode-scanning command, RFID-reading command, RFID-writing command, and RFID data.

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9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said RFID-reading and RFID-writing commands are selected from a list of commands consisting identify-all-transponders, read-all-transponders, read-specific-transponders, write-to-all-transponders, and write-to-specific-transponders.

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10. A radio frequency identification (RFID) system, comprising:
an RFID base station adapted to communicate with at least one RFID
transponder; and
a first terminal electrically connected to said RFID base station and a
second terminal, said first terminal adapted to:
5 communicate with said RFID base station using an RFID protocol;
communicate with said second terminal using a standard terminal
emulation protocol,
receive a plurality of data strings from said second terminal,
10 wherein a portion of said plurality of data strings are directed toward said
RFID base station and include RFID information;
identify said portion of said plurality of data strings;
use said RFID information and said RFID protocol to generate at
least one RFID signal; and
15 transmit said at least one RFID signal to said RFID base station.

11. The RFID system of Claim 10, wherein said RFID base station is further
adapted to communicate with a barcode scanner.

20 12. The RFID system of Claim 10, wherein said RFID base station is further
adapted to scan barcodes.

25 13. The RFID system of Claim 10, wherein said RFID information is selected
from a list of information consisting of port-initialization command, barcode-scanning
command, RFID-reading command, RFID-writing command, RFID data.

14. The RFID system of Claim 10, wherein said first terminal is adapted to identify said portion of said plurality of data strings by identifying character indicia, said character indicia being selected from a list consisting of character type and first-character location.

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15. The RFID system of Claim 10, further comprising:
said second terminal; and
an application operating thereon, said application being adapted to embed characters into a data string so that said data string is recognizable by said first terminal as being directed toward said RFID base station.

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16. A radio frequency identification (RFID) system for communicating with an RFID base station; comprising:

a terminal adapted to:

15 receive a plurality of data signals, wherein each one of said plurality of data signals is compiled according to a standard terminal emulation protocol'

identify at least one of said plurality of data signals that is directed toward an RFID base station, said at least one of said plurality of data signals including a first set of information that corresponds to at least one action that is to be performed by said RFID base station;

20 generating a data signal compiled according to an RFID protocol and including a second set of information that corresponds to said first set of information; and

transmitting said data signal to said RFID base station.

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17. The RFID system of Claim 16, wherein said first set of information is at least substantially the same as said second set of information.

18. The RFID system of Claim 16, wherein said terminal is further adapted to receive said plurality of data signals from another terminal.

19. The RFID system of Claim 16, wherein said first and second sets of 5 information correspond to a barcode-scanning action that is to be performed by said RFID base station.

20. The RFID system of Claim 16, wherein said first and second sets of information correspond to an RFID action that is to be performed by said RFID base 10 station, said RFID action being selected from a list of action consisting of initializing a port of said RFID base station, reading RFID data from at least one RFID transponder, and writing RFID data to at least one RFID transponder.